

Student Opportunities Fund

UW-Whitewater students are recognized across the state and the nation for their accomplishments through regional and national awards. This level of excellence can be seen throughout campus — our Wind Ensemble has played Carnegie Hall, student artwork has been accepted in juried exhibitions, student teachers have been honored for their work in local schools, students provide services for real-world clients in outreach centers and labs, and student organizations, like our Fed Challenge Team, have competed against Ivy League schools.



Members of the Fed Challenge team pose with their regional first place trophy. In frame 0797 as a reference, the students are, from left, Ron Tittle, Mark Ellis, Taylor Griffith, Alexandre Vieira and Alejandro Esquivel.

While winning awards is a mark of excellence, the real value of student experiences like these is the process it takes to achieve work of this quality. These are the experiences that transform lives by building personal confidence, expanding networks and gaining an understanding of different perspectives and cultures. Students are forever changed through the pursuit of excellence as individuals and in team settings. In fact, according to a Gallup and Purdue University survey, what students experience beyond the classroom positively impacts their well-being — both while in school and later in the workforce. An engaged student is more likely to graduate and become a committed employee.

However, there are obstacles for students who want to participate in these life-altering experiences. A student learned the exciting news that her artwork was selected to be displayed in a New York exhibition, only to realize that she wouldn't be able to see the exhibit in person because she couldn't afford
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the trip. A student teacher is struggling to find reliable transportation to his teaching assignment and pay for his licensing exams. A student who dreamed of studying abroad to improve her foreign language skills can't support a semester abroad because she would need to work in order to pay room and board, and working while studying abroad is not permitted.

Every college on campus has these stories to tell. Students who have worked hard towards a goal, but don't have the resources to participate in the final event. Students who dream of expanding their horizons to gain skills and experiences that will benefit them throughout their careers, but feel the short-term financial stress is too great to take the leap.

The Student Opportunities Fund provides an endowed pool of money in each college to increase access to these remarkable experiences that will have a lasting impact on students personally and professionally. By graduation, every student should have participated in at least one co-curricular activity. Our alumni prove that Warhawks can be successful all over the world, and — with your help — our students will graduate with a resume that sets them apart as they enter the workforce.



UW-Whitewater art student Ger Xiong was one of 32 students presenting their undergraduate research projects last spring at the 31st annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research at the University of Memphis in Memphis, TN.



Neila Ybarra, 5, tries out the art component of a project on habitats by senior Miranda Milnes, a student in the UW-Whitewater Early Childhood Education program. Seniors displayed projects they presented as student teachers in area schools. Miranda was a student teacher in third grade at Summit View Elementary in Waukesha.